



QUESTIONS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING COMMISSIONER NOMINEE

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING (DOH) COMMISSIONER (CGS § [8-37R](#))

- The DOH commissioner is responsible for (1) all aspects of state housing policy, development, redevelopment, preservation, maintenance, and improvement of the state's housing stock and (2) developing strategies to encourage housing provision in the state, including for very low-, low-, and moderate-income families.
- [PA 12-1](#), June Special Session, established DOH and made it the lead state agency responsible for all housing matters. [PA 13-234](#) completed DOH's establishment by transferring to it various housing-related responsibilities from DECD, the Office of Policy and Management, and the Department of Social Services.
- DOH is located within the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) for administrative purposes only.

QUESTIONS

1. What are the biggest challenges you have faced in your tenure as the DOH commissioner? What do you see as your major accomplishments?
2. What do you see as the most important short- and long-term goals for the department? What are your legislative priorities for this session?
3. Is there any area related to housing in which DOH should be more involved? Are there programs in other agencies that should be transferred to DOH?
4. Other than lack of funding, what do you consider to be the greatest challenge to increasing the state's affordable housing stock?
5. How is your department helping individuals overcome economic barriers to housing (e.g., lack of credit, criminal background, lack of financial literacy)?
6. Which housing programs have been most effective in creating housing opportunities for Connecticut's low- and moderate-income minority households? What are your ideas for improving the current programs or creating new ones?
7. The 2013 Yale School of Medicine study "*Invisible No More*," suggests that there are few resources available for unaccompanied homeless youth in Connecticut. Do you agree with this assessment? How is the department addressing youth homelessness?
8. What types of housing-related programs or incentives could the state offer to young professionals to encourage them to live in Connecticut's urban centers?
9. Has the state's supply of affordable housing increased since the Affordable Housing Land Use Appeals Procedure (CGS § [8-30g](#)) was enacted in 1990? Where has this housing been built? Has it kept pace with demand? The Housing Committee is considering several bills that would amend the procedure. What changes, if any, would you like to see made?
10. What is the connection between affordable housing and education? What about career advancement?
11. Senior housing projects continue to report tensions between elderly and non-elderly tenants who have disabilities, particularly those recovering from alcohol and drug abuse or suffering from mental illness. What are your ideas for addressing these tensions?

JB:jk/tjo